ELELS AGM Safeguarding Report – June 2019

Introduction - What is safeguarding and why does it matter?
Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in order to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and maltreatment so that they can live safely
- Preventing harm to children or vulnerable adults' health or development
- Ensuring children or vulnerable adults have a provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children and vulnerable adults to have the best outcomes

The four main categories of abuse are:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional / Psychological abuse — including online abuse and cyber-bullying
- Neglect

A couple of general examples might help clarify what we mean. Any of our elderly or frail members must not be put at risk, for example, by our synagogue sending someone to their home who had not been thoroughly checked and proved to be safe. Every child in our community can only have a teacher, tutor, or madrich (youth worker) once we have first properly checked they are safe.

None of the above is pleasant. But then again, anyone who needs protection from maltreatment or abuse will be suffering and so it is our job to make sure that we can help them.

How do we at ELELS guard everyone's safety from abuse?
Everyone has a responsibility to keep children and vulnerable adults safe. As the poster on display in our synagogue states: "it is never wrong..."

All organisations that come into contact with children and vulnerable adults should have specific safeguarding policies and procedures in place. Our Safeguarding team are regularly at services and events but can also be contacted confidentially via the synagogue office, where you will be given their personal contact number or a message will be left to phone.

As a team, we are there for anyone to speak to us if they have concerns that a member of our community - whatever their age, whatever their circumstances and status within the community – is potentially suffering from abuse or maltreatment, or you are concerned about their safety and welfare. We will always be there to listen to you and will always treat anything you say in strictest confidence. It may simply be a case that a call from 'In Touch' or one of our Rabbis will be enough but sometimes it can need further support or intervention. All of our safeguarding team have been trained to lead safeguarding and are committed to making sure that we are all safe and supported. Please remember that, by its nature, you should not know about the majority of safeguarding work we get involved in. We hope, though, that you feel reassured that your synagogue leadership are ensuring that we are a safe place for everyone.

Headlines for our members

- The Safeguarding Team has now changed so that there are members of the team with adult safeguarding experience as well as child protection experience.
    - Josh Newham – Designated Safeguarding Lead (Child Protection expertise)
    - Paul Bloomfield – Cheder Headteacher
    - Di Kamall – Adult safeguarding
    - Sonia Muscovitch – In Touch Coordinator and Adult Safeguarding
    - Sharon Pinhas – Child Protection
- I would like to thank Antony Twyman, Rachel Kamall and Sharon Law for their commitment to safeguarding in the past year.

- A new, updated, policy has been written to cover child protection, adult safeguarding and online safety. This was ratified by Council at the last meeting in June.
- As a synagogue, it is imperative that we have robust procedures in place to safeguard all of our members, children and adults, within our synagogue. We also recognise that we have a number of non-members visit our synagogue on a regular basis, and therefore we have a duty to ensure their safety too.
- We acknowledge that we have been better at focusing on the safeguarding of children than we have at safeguarding our vulnerable adults, hence a change of our safeguarding team and an update to our policy.
- The Safeguarding Team will meet every six months, along with Rabbi Richard when appropriate to discuss safeguarding procedures as well as any safeguarding concerns that have been raised.

Safeguarding Concerns to Report

- Since the last AGM, there have been two separate safeguarding concerns raised with the Safeguarding team – both of which were discussed and recorded for monitoring.

East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue

is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of all of our members

In our welcoming and inclusive ELELS community, we wish to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable, supported and safe.

However, if you are concerned about a member or if a child or adult discloses information to you that makes you feel concerned about their safety or welfare, or the safety or welfare of another, please inform one of the named Safeguarding Team below by phoning the office on **020 8989 7619** and leaving a message for them to call you.

Remember that it is never wrong to feel concerned and it is better to inform one of the Safeguarding Team than do nothing at all.



Josh Newham
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Paul Bloomfield



Di Kamall



Sonia Muscovitch



Sharon Pinhas

If you have any further questions about safeguarding in general or specifically within our community, please do feel free to contact me on joshnewham1@hotmail.com

Josh Newham
Designated Safeguarding Lead for ELELS